



WHAT IS THE SAFE H₂OME PROGRAM?

The safety of your drinking water is important to you and your family's health. Because most people in Maine get their drinking water from wells, the safety of their drinking water depends upon the purity of ground water. Unfortunately, bacteria or high nitrates frequently contaminate groundwater. Other problem contaminants are petroleum, pesticides, or even naturally occurring metals like arsenic. Your daily activities, like fertilizing a lawn, or accidents, like spilling gasoline, could ruin your water supply. *If you have a private well, you are responsible for ensuring that your water remains safe.*

The **SAFE H₂OME PROGRAM** will help you learn how to keep your well safe. A joint project of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the **SAFE H₂OME PROGRAM** is a set of seven fact sheets and worksheets:

- 💧 **Mapping Your Wellhead Protection Area**
- 💧 **Well Construction and Maintenance**
- 💧 **Household Hazardous Wastes**
- 💧 **Household Wastewater**
- 💧 **Safe Lawn and Garden Care**
- 💧 **Lead in the Home**
- 💧 **Household Petroleum Liquids**

The fact sheets give you ideas on how to reduce risk of ground water contamination. Your answers on the accompanying worksheets allow you to find out how your household practices may affect your well water. The reference page, "Important Contacts for Information on Ground Water," provides you with a list of organizations you can call if you have questions or need help. We have also included a fact sheet with more information about ground water and aquifers.

It is the goal of the SAFE H₂OME PROGRAM to provide you with the information you need to protect yourself and your family and to prevent ground water contamination.

A joint water quality project from:

